

In the claims:

Please cancel claims 1 - 3.

4. (Currently Amended) ~~Atomizer~~ An atomizer according to ~~Claim 3,~~ characterized in that the electrodes (10, 105) are connected to claim 16 including a common annular conductor (14, 57) concentric to the longitudinal said axis of rotation and connected to all of said electrodes.

5. (Currently Amended) ~~Atomizer~~ An atomizer according to ~~one of the preceding claims,~~ characterized in that at least two annular electrode arrangements (10', 105) concentric to the longitudinal axis are provided, whose claim 24 wherein said first and second electrodes are further defined as having respective ionization ends and said ionization ends are separated from each other in the one of an axial and/or radial direction directions.

Please cancel claims 6 - 14.

15. (New) An atomizer for coating workpieces with a coating material comprising:
a cone plate having an axis of rotation and operable to dispense coating material;
at least one of a ring body and a housing being concentric to and spaced from said cone plate along said axis of rotation and including an radially outwardly facing surface;
at least one electrode embedded in said one of a ring body and a housing wherein said at least one electrode defines a tip being flush with said radially outwardly facing surface of said ring body.

16. (New) The atomizer according to claim 15 wherein said at least one electrode is further defined as greater than six electrodes.

17. (New) The atomizer according to claim 15 wherein said at least one electrode is further defined as at least ten electrodes.

18. (New) The atomizer according to claim 15 wherein said at least one electrode is further defined as being parallel to said axis of rotation.

19. (New) The atomizer according to claim 15 wherein said at least one electrode is further defined as being a plurality of electrodes disposed along a concentric circle surrounding said axis of rotation.

20. (New) The atomizer according to claim 19 wherein said plurality of electrodes are further defined as being disposed along said concentric circle at uniform angle intervals.

21. (New) The atomizer according to claim 19 wherein said cone plate is further defined as including a spray edge diameter and said circle is further defined as including a diameter wherein said diameter of said circle being less than twice said spray edge diameter.

22. (New) The atomizer according to claim 15 including an end ring disposed between said cone plate and said at least one electrode.

23. (New) The atomizer according to claim 15 wherein said at least one of a ring body and a housing is further defined as including a recess and said surface being adjacent said recess.

24. (New) The atomizer according to claim 15 wherein said at least one electrode is further defined as including a first and second electrodes longitudinally spaced along said axis of rotation.